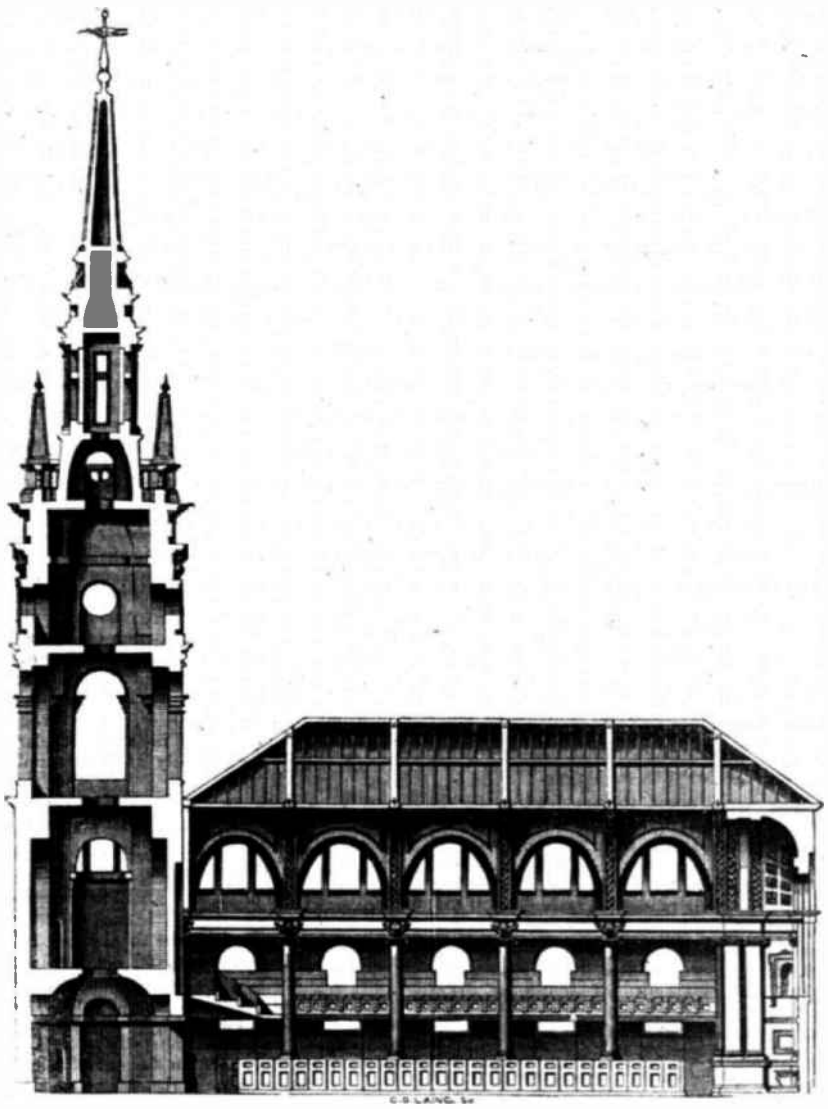

LONGITUDINAL SECTION OF ST. OLAVE'S CHURCH, SOUTHWARK.

(Reduced from the Architect's original drawing in the Royal Library at the British Museum.)

SCALE. 10 5 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 FEET.

ST. OLAVE'S CHURCH, SOUTHWARK.

The following interesting particulars relative to the appointment of the architect, and the building and cost of the church, were read by Mr. Alfred Bartholomew, at the last meeting of the Freemasons of the Church. We intend in our next number to present our readers with an elevation and plans of the spire of the church as designed to have been built, and some further interesting particulars relating to the church.

Mr. Bartholomew stated, that in the Royal Library, in the British Museum, are preserved the original drawings made by the architect for the fabric, a reduced copy of one of which we give this week.

The former old church having, it appears, partly fallen, application was made to the legislature, and from the original document, which still exists in Mr. Corner's possession, Mr. Bartholomew read the following form of application:—

"To the Honble. the Commons of Great Britain in Parliament assembled. — The humble petition of Philip Ayscough, Clerk, Rector, Edmund Brown, Daniel Alexander, and William Lessone, churchwardens of the parish of St. Olave, in the city of London and borough of Southwark, in the county of Surrey, and other inhabitants of the said parish, whose names are hereunto subscribed.

Sheweth:—That the church of the said parish is a very ancient fabrick, and that considerable sums of money have been laid out in repairing and supporting the same, notwithstanding which part thereof is lately fallen down, and the remaining part, which is now standing, is in a very ruinous condition, and in the opinion of able workmen, who have surveyed the same, is absolutely necessary to be rebuilt.

Therefore your petitioners humbly pray this honble. House, that leave may be given to bring in a Bill to enable the parishioners of the said parish to rebuild the said church in such manner as to this honble. House shall seem meet.

And your petitioners shall ever pray, &c."

(Followed by 76 signatures.)

An Act of Parliament for the rebuilding of this church having been obtained, appointing trustees, the work was proceeded with, and in the original minute-book of the church-trust, are the following entries:—

"July 6, 1737.—The said trustees took into consid^{n} the business of a surveyor to the intended new church, upon which Mr. Fleetcraft and Mr. Porter attended, and they were separately called in, and being asked sev^{l} questions ab^{t} the business of a surveyor, and what they intended to do under the character and denomination of a surveyor, Mr. Fleetcraft informed the said trustees of his intention and design, and that he would perform his business as a surveyor for 4*l.* per c^{t}. Mr. Porter also informed the s^{d} trustees to the same purpose, and offered to pform the same at 2*l.* per cent.; but the same being debated, as well in regard to the difference of price and the proposalls of the said surveyors as also of the prov^{d} ability of Mr. Fleetcraft, a previous question was putt, whether the s^{d} trustees shou^{d} at this time proceed to the choice of a surveyor. Ordered, that the s^{d} trustees do proceed to a choice.

It was mooved, that the s^{d} trustees put up Mr. Fleetcraft and Mr. Porter separately, to be surveyor of the new church, and, upon majority of hands held up, the choice fell upon Mr. Fleetcraft. The said trustees, after the said choice was over, informed Mr. Fleetcraft, that as they chose him their surveyor, they hoped he would abate somewhat of his proposall. He replied that he would contract for no less than 4*l.* p. c^{t}.; but in regard to the parish he wo^{d} be obliged to make a deduction of an half p. c^{t}. Ordered accordingly.

Aug. 17, 1737.—This day Mr. Fleetcraft attended with a ground plan, and also a plan of the church and steeple, and also a view of the inside and outside of the east end, but the said trustees came to no resolution.

Sept. 14.—Mr. Fleetcraft's clerk attended at this meeting with several drawings, intended for the rebuilding of the church, w^{h} the said trustees having viewed, and maturely considered, do approve of, as the drawings for the rebuilding the same."

About this time it seems Mr. Dance the elder, who was architect of the city "Mansion House," and who had been employed to give evidence in Parliament relative to the necessity of rebuilding the church, applied for payment; and that the men of St. Olave's were economical, will be further seen by the following entry:—

"Sept. 28th, 1737.—Reported that Mr. Dance had sent a letter to the treasurer that he made a demand of 5 guineas for his attend^{ce} at the House of Lords, and had sent a letter for the purpose, which was read; and upon debating the same, it was agreed that he should have 3 guineas."

Then occurs the following rather summary minute:—

"Ordered, that the monuments of the church and tombstones in the church-yard be advertised in the *Daily Advertiser* and *Daily Gazetteer*, that unless the owners come to take them down within a month, they will be pulled down and sold to the best bidder." But,

12 Oct.—No advertisement had been made, because the east end was too ruinous for workmen to safely go there.

At length the design for the church approached completion, as will be seen by the following minutes:—

"9th Nov. 1737.—Mr. FLITCROFT (*for the first time spelled correctly*) attended with the plans, elevations, and sections of the designs for St. Olave's Church, which were approved of by the trustees, as also an alteration proposed to be made in the front, by introducing two HEIGHT of windows instead of the large windows proposed in the said drawing, which drawings were all signed by the trustees."

These are the very drawings with one tier of windows, and all signed, which are now at the British Museum; however, by another minute of the same day,

"Mr. Flitcroft was desired to draw and deliver copies of the said drawings to Mr. Hucks treasurer)."

The drawings being perfected, the following minutes of further proceedings occur:—

"Dec. 7, 1737.—This day Mr *Fleetcroft* again attended with the copies of sev^{l} elevations for rebuilding the church approved off and agreed with the last meeting, and the commee then desired the said Mr. Fleetcroft to make estimates of the particular charges of the sev^{l} kinds of work to be performed by the sev^{l} workmen, and what the said church and steeple may be built for, and also such other directions for the use of the materialls of the old church, the better to enable the commee to contract and agree with workmen for the purpose; and at the same time left the said copies in the hands of Mr. Hucks, the treasurer, for the perusall of the said committee.

Jan. 18th, 1737.—This day Mr. Flitcraft attended the trustees, and that the alteration of the roof and of the ceiling, as the same is now laid before them, were approved off; and, at the same time, produced and read over the generall measures, and also the particul^{r} of the masons work, bricklayers work, and carpenters work, intended for the building of the new church, which were in like manner approved off."

After this tenders for the execution of the work were obtained; and the little coquettings with the tradesmen who offered their services, are not without affording amusement, as will be seen by the next extracts:—

"Feb. 1st, 1737.—This day Mr. Dunn for himself, and Mr. Townsend the mason, Mr. Devall, and Mr. Horsenaile, masons, and also Mr.

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